

AWARDING SERGEANT JOHN  
HERRINGTON A CONGRESSIONAL  
VETERAN COMMENDATION

**HON. PAT FALLON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 7, 2022*

Mr. FALLON. Madam Speaker, I am honored and privileged to award Sergeant John Herrington with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His service and sacrifice through the United States Army exemplify his national pride and embodiment as a role-model citizen to serve the country he loves. Sergeant Herrington is truly an ideal candidate to receive the Congressional Veteran Commendation.

Sergeant Herrington was called to serve as a volunteer. As a Tank Crewman in Vietnam, he was a much-needed asset for the United States. Sergeant Herrington served in the U.S. Army with great passion and dedication to serve and deliver a great sacrifice.

Sergeant Herrington was even willing to lose both of his legs in battle to support his country in the Vietnam war. A perfect example of a patriot who deserves one of the most decorated medals, a recipient of a Purple Heart.

Sergeant Herrington did not let his new challenge stop him from continuing to live a productive life. He has held several professions including truck driver and gunsmith. During his free time, he is involved in the community and VFW activities. He serves as a Commander of the local chapter of Patriot Guard in which he uses his love of motorcycles to honor veteran funerals.

Upon delivering Sergeant Herrington with congratulating him for receiving this prestigious award, I was informed by my staff that though Sergeant Herrington may have lost both legs in battle, he still managed to persevere and walk across the stage to acknowledge the message. It is the great people of Lamar county that amaze me the most.

The fact that Sergeant Herrington has never backed down from a challenge and continues to press on with no complaints as to why I feel so lucky to recognize his sacrifices.

I am beyond honored to have Sergeant Herrington in Texas' 4th Congressional district and am privileged to award such a distinguished citizen for his true American grit.

HONORING COMMISSIONER KEN  
RUSSELL

**HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 7, 2022*

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a descendant of Bahamians to recognize City of Miami Commissioner Ken Russell for his contribution to the City of Miami's designation of the Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove on July 19, 2022.

Since the 19th century, Bahamians played an integral role in the founding of the City of Miami, representing one-third of the registered signatories on July 28, 1896, date of the city's incorporation.

Much like Miami's original Bahamian signatories, Commissioner Ken Russell's commit-

ment to preserving the rich Bahamian culture and history of Miami has helped to ensure the designation of the Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Commissioner Ken Russell for his contributions to the community and his role in the historic designation of the Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove.

REMEMBERING COACH VINCENT  
JOSEPH "VINCE" DOOLEY

**HON. BARRY LOUDERMILK**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 7, 2022*

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of my friend and Georgia football legend, Coach Vince Dooley, who went to be with the Lord on October 28, 2022.

Coach Dooley was born in Mobile, Alabama in 1932. He began his football career at Auburn University, where he played quarterback from 1951 to 1953. After earning his undergraduate degree, Coach Dooley served for two years in the United States Marine Corps, before returning to civilian life to pursue a graduate degree. While studying for his Master's in history at Auburn University, he began working as an assistant coach, a role he would hold for eight years. In 1963, Coach Dooley accepted an offer to serve as the head coach at the University of Georgia, unknowingly setting into motion a chain of events that would change college football forever.

Shortly after assuming the role of head coach at UGA, Coach Dooley led the Bulldogs to an eighteen-to-seventeen win against the University of Alabama, the reigning national champions at the time. Over the following quarter century, Coach Dooley would orchestrate the University of Georgia's rise to the top of the college football ranks, earning a total of six Southeastern Conference Championships, culminating in the historic 1980 National Championship, which the Bulldogs carried undefeated. In total, Coach Dooley led the team to 201 victories, the most under a single coach in the school's history. Later, Coach Dooley would accept a new role as director of UGA's entire athletic department, in which he would cement the school's reputation as one of the top athletic schools in the country. In 2009, Coach Dooley would go on to help Kennesaw State University establish their own football program, which is set to join the prestigious NCAA Division 1-A by 2024.

Coach Dooley was the recipient of seven SEC Coach of the Year Awards and the Bear Bryant Lifetime Achievement Award. He was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame, the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame, the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame, the Marine Corps Sports Hall of Fame, and the University of Georgia's Circle of Honor, and many other honors. In 2019, the University of Georgia christened their stadium 'Dooley Field' in his honor.

Coach Dooley's interests extended beyond the gridiron. He was a master gardener, author, and advocate for historic battlefield preservation. He was a committed family man who is survived by his wife of sixty-two years, Barbara; as well as their four children, eleven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

In the south, where bitter rivalries between college football teams can be as divisive as politics, it is indisputable that Coach Dooley found his place among the greatest legends of football. He will be remembered as one of the southeast's most accomplished sons, and one of Georgia's most faithful servants.

RECOGNIZING THE HALPERN FAMILY AS RECIPIENTS OF THE 2022  
DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN AWARD

**HON. FRANK J. MRVAN**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 7, 2022*

Mr. MRVAN. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I take this time to recognize the recipients of the 2022 Distinguished Citizen Award, presented annually by the Boy Scouts of America, Pathway to Adventure Council. To commemorate this special occasion, the organization is hosting a celebratory event on Wednesday, November 9, 2022, at the Center for Visual and Performing Arts in Munster, Indiana.

Since 1992, the Boy Scouts of America has bestowed the Distinguished Citizen Award upon individuals whose efforts have made a significant positive impact on the community of Northwest Indiana and beyond. This year, the Boy Scouts of America, Pathway to Adventure Council is honoring the Halpern family.

Fred, Donna, Joshua, and Ashley Halpern are the owners of Albert's Diamond Jewelers in Schererville, Indiana. Established in East Chicago, Indiana, in 1905, Fred Halpern acquired Albert's in 1960. Throughout the years, Fred and his wife, Donna, handled much of the business operations. In 2010, Joshua, Fred and Donna's son, was named president of the company, becoming the fourth generation in his family to run the business. That same year, Joshua wed Ashley, who had been part of the Albert's team since 2003. Throughout the years, the company has flourished, and Albert's Diamond Jewelers continues to be one of the largest independent and family-owned jewelry stores in the country.

The Halpern family dedicates much of their time and support to charitable endeavors throughout the region including the Foodbank of Northwest Indiana, NWI Parkinson's, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, the Humane Society, South Shore Arts, and TradeWinds, among many others. In addition, the family hosts an annual auction for Multiple Sclerosis, which has raised over \$2.6 million. The Halpern family is to be commended for their passionate and lifelong commitment to philanthropic efforts.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the Boy Scouts of America, Pathway to Adventure Council and its 2022 Distinguished Citizen Award recipients, Fred, Donna, Joshua, and Ashley Halpern. For their compassionate devotion to numerous charitable organizations, the Halpern family is to be admired, and they are worthy of the highest praise.

AWARDING GUNNERY SERGEANT  
RICHARD HALL A CONGRES-  
SIONAL VETERAN COMMENDA-  
TION

### HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 7, 2022*

Mr. FALLON. Madam Speaker, I am honored and privileged to award Gunnery Sergeant Richard Hall, United States Marine Corps with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His service and sacrifice through the United States Marine Corps exemplify his national pride and embodiment as a role-model citizen to serve the country he loves. Gunnery Sergeant Hall is truly an ideal candidate to receive the Congressional Veteran Commendation.

During his years of military service in the Marine Corps, Gunnery Sergeant Hall has served in a plethora of incredibly important positions such as a Marine rifle, infantry leader, communications, recruiting duty, a combat leader in Vietnam where he spent 23 continuous days in battle, as well as the Two Tours of Combat Duty. Not only is his dedication to his country shown through 23 straight days of warfare, but to serve one's Nation for twenty-one straight years is very admirable. Gunnery Sergeant Hall has also shown his adaptability by serving in many locations around the world such as San Diego Naval base, Camp Pendleton, Japan, Dallas, Vietnam, Texas Recruiting Center, and Pacific Command Hawaii with Weapons protection command. After serving for twenty-one years, Gunnery Sergeant Hall retired in 1975 with many awards including the Bronze Star Medal with combat "V" device; and was awarded two Purple Hearts for battle wounds.

I am beyond honored to have Gunnery Sergeant Hall in Texas' 4th Congressional district and am privileged to award such a distinguished citizen for his sacrifices.

### HONORING PASTOR LANCE BAILEY

### HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 7, 2022*

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a descendant of Bahamians to recognize Pastor Lance Bailey for his contribution to the City of Miami's designation of the Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove on July 19, 2022.

Since the 19th century, Bahamians played an integral role in the founding of the City of Miami, representing one-third of the registered signatories on July 28, 1896, the date of the city's incorporation.

Much like Miami's original Bahamian signatories, Pastor Lance Bailey's commitment to preserving the rich Bahamian culture and history of Miami has helped to ensure the designation of the Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Pastor Lance Bailey for his contributions to the community and his role in the historic designation of the Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove.

S. 3969, PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR VOTING ACCESS PROGRAM INCLUSION ACT

### HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 7, 2022*

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I must say that I am perplexed by the Chairwoman's statements on the COCOA Act. Her interpretation of the COCOA Act is misleading and inaccurate. There have been instances in past election cycles where election officials were not aware of Congress' role and responsibility in having its own observers on site to watch the election administration process and, as a result, were denied access. As I stated earlier, this bill fixes a bi-partisan problem by providing a citation of convenience for existing law that gives the House authority to deploy official observers to watch the conduct of congressional elections in the States and territories. This way, there is no question regarding Congress' authority to have observers present.

To my surprise, the Chairwoman identifies two late breaking concerns she has with the bill. First, she states that while the bill provides broad authority to Congress, it fails to provide election officials with the ability to protect personally identifiable information. This concern appears to be a novel one, particularly in light of the long history of the Congressional observer program. We certainly would have welcomed the opportunity to discuss it further in our multiple efforts to work with majority staff on this topic.

Second, the Chairwoman expresses concern over an election official's inability to remove congressional observers that are disruptive to the process. Contrary to the Chairwoman's statement, the bill outlines the role of congressional observers and specifically prohibits these individuals from handling ballots, elections equipment, advocating for a position or candidate, taking any action to reduce ballot secrecy, or otherwise interfering with the elections administration process. The bill also permits state and local authorities to remove any observer who misbehaves. As such, state and local election officials across the country would have appropriate protections in place and should not be distressed by the presence of congressional observers.

Over the course of the past two years, my staff made a concerted effort to engage majority staff on the COCOA Act as we view this as a bi-partisan measure. We provided draft language to them for review. They did not reference either of the aforementioned concerns or flag any language that they believed to be problematic in the few conversations we had with them. My staff repeatedly offered to confer on any issue that majority staff may have with the bill and received nothing but radio silence.

It is important to note that we had an initial agreement in principle to move the COCOA Act together with the PAVA Act. However, at the eleventh hour, the majority reneged on our agreement in principle to move the COCOA Act forward. Again, here on the House Floor is the first time we are learning of any issues with the bill.

This bill benefits both sides of the aisle and serves as an additional layer of transparency

and integrity in the elections process. I am concerned that, without the COCOA Act in place this fall, the majority and minority's ability to execute this House's constitutional responsibility will continue to face serious challenges.

### HONORING THE SERVICE OF THERESE McMILLAN

### HON. MARK DESAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 7, 2022*

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Therese McMillan as she retires from her role as Executive Director of the San Francisco Bay Area's Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG).

Throughout her career, Therese has dedicated herself to ensuring healthy and equitable transportation systems and corridors in communities across the San Francisco Bay. She began her work with MTC in 1984 and has served in nearly every position within the agency up until 2009. She then had the opportunity to work under the Obama Administration, serving as the Deputy Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), then went on to become the Acting Administrator from 2014 to 2016. After her federal work, Therese worked for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority as their Chief Planning Officer until 2019, then returned to MTC as its new Executive Director.

Therese has played a pivotal role in uplifting the voices of women in the transportation sector across the country, including through her participation in WTS International and as their Woman of the Year in 2016. She has also provided a real-world perspective to the landscape of transportation, teaching transportation finance at the San Jose State University Norman Y. Mineta Transportation Institute during her MTC tenure.

Also during her time at the MTC, Therese has spearheaded several initiatives that have helped strengthen the San Francisco Bay Area's transportation systems to be more equitable and inclusive for all Bay Area residents. Under her leadership, MTC established an Equity Platform where the Commission strives to advance policies and make investments that will ensure all Bay Area residents, including historically underserved and marginalized groups, are considered when discussing our region's transit needs. Therese also demonstrated strong leadership guiding MTC through the COVID-19, overseeing the formation of the Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force which aims to improve the transit rider experience. She was also highly involved with the Resolution 3434 Regional Transportation Expansion Program, helping to establish minimum housing density targets near transit stations and prioritizing transit capital investments throughout the Bay Area.

I am grateful for Therese's dedication and compassion in striving to provide exceptional transportation services to Bay Area residents. Please join me in congratulating Therese on her retirement and her nearly three decades of service to our community.